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Secretary of State Highlights President's International Affairs Budget Request

Powell says diplomatic efforts critical to winning war on terrorism

WASHINGTON —Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate Budget Committee today that while progress has been made attacking terrorist organizations both globally and locally, much work remains to be done.

"The President's top foreign policy priority is winning the war on terrorism," Powell said during testimony on the President's \$31.5 billion foreign affairs budget. "Winning on the battlefield with our superb military forces is just one step in defeating terrorism.

"To eradicate terrorism altogether, the United States must help create stable governments in nations that once supported terrorism, go after terrorist support mechanisms as well as terrorists themselves, and help alleviate conditions in the world that spawn terrorists," Powell said.

Chairman Don Nickles praised Secretary Powell for his efforts in promoting the President's message of democracy around the globe. "You've been a great representative of the country and the Administration, and I compliment you for your hard work," said Nickles.

Powell focused on several priorities within the foreign affairs budget, including the reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the international HIV/AIDS initiative, and the Millenium Challenge program, which allocates funds to countries committed to a democratic government.

Secretary Powell testified in what was the final Committee hearing of the FY 2005 Budget season. SBC has heard testimony over the past three weeks from the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget, HHS Secretary

Tommy Thompson, Treasury Secretary John Snow, and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. The Committee is now charged with crafting a FY05 Budget Resolution.